

FIFRA Special Project Grant, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Program: 2004 Requests for Proposals

The FIFRA Special Project Grant, Worker Protection Standard (WPS): Colorado Pilot Program, is intended to help strengthen industry compliance with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and minimize worker exposure to pesticides. These grants will provide support for education, training, monitoring, demonstrations or studies that promote stewardship of pesticide safety rules, regulations and procedures.

The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for unique and innovative projects, and projects that address the requirements of the Federal WPS and related methods of protecting agricultural workers from pesticide exposure within a specific commodity, group of commodities or geographic area. This is an initial solicitation. This assistance will be awarded through the **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20.**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 66.716

Important Dates:

May 19, 2004 – Solicitation posted on EPA Web site.
July 19, 2004 – Proposals due.
August 1, 2004 – Proposals selected for funding and applicants notified of decisions.
Sept. 1, 2004 – Formal application packages due.
September 30, 2004 – Funding available to selected applicants.

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FIFRA Special Project Grant, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Program: 2004 Requests for Proposals

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The FIFRA Special Project Grant, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Program is intended to help strengthen industry compliance with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and minimize worker exposure to pesticides. These grants will provide support for education, training, monitoring, demonstrations or studies that promote compliance of pesticide safety rules, regulations and procedures.

The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for projects which are unique and innovative, and that address the objectives of the Federal WPS and related methods of protecting agricultural workers from pesticide exposure. The grants are designed to foster responsible pesticide management and to develop institutions, information, and strategies to assure increased protection of workers exposed to pesticides. This solicitation will focus on the state of Colorado, as a pilot effort. The learning from this work will be assessed for its potential application to the remaining Region 8 states.

Possible approaches to promoting stewardship of WPS could include, but are not limited to, a combination field level compliance assistance, pesticide safety training, development and/or dissemination of educational materials, self-assessments and promotion of model training programs.

This is a new Region 8 grant program for Fiscal year 2004 only. Recipients of 2004 funding will have up to two years to complete the project.

Background on the WPS

EPA's Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a regulation aimed at reducing the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. The WPS offers protections to over three and a half million people who work with pesticides at over 560,000 workplaces nationwide. The WPS contains requirements for pesticide safety training, notification of pesticide applications, use of personal protective equipment, restricted entry intervals following pesticide application, decontamination supplies, and emergency medical assistance.

In 2000, USEPA began a national assessment of the worker protection program to review program implementation and enforcement and identify ways to make these activities more effective. EPA Region 8, States, Tribes, and numerous organizations in this region participated in the National WPS Assessment and continue to work on efforts to strengthen implementation of the WPS. This grant program is part of Region 8's continuing commitment to improving pesticide worker safety programs.

For more background information on the WPS or the National WPS Assessment Project, visit the

II. Award Information

EPA Region 8 Pesticide Program intends to award up to an estimated \$100,000 for grant awards. From the proposals received, EPA estimates that 2 to 3 projects may be selected with a maximum award of about \$35,000. Costs incurred prior to the grant award will not be reimbursed.

For a complete list of EPA funding opportunities, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/grants.htm> or http://www.epa.gov/region8/community_resources/grants/grants.html

III. Eligibility Information

State agencies, Tribes, local governments, universities, and non-profit organizations (including not-for-profit commodity groups or farmers' groups) are eligible to submit proposals for the WPS Stewardship grant under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20. Individuals and for-profit organizations are not eligible.

The projects must be located in the state of Colorado. Both new and existing projects will be considered. No matching funds are required, however applicants are strongly encouraged to leverage funds from other sources. Applicants may provide a non-federal cash or in-kind match to indicate the organization's commitment to completing the project.

Please note: Research is ineligible for funding as well as other ineligible costs outlined in 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31. Funding for selected projects will be available September 2004. Most surveys conducted using Federal grant funds must be approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Funding may be used for up to two years from the time that the grant is awarded.

IV. Proposal Format and Submission Information

Proposals are limited to five pages.

The following format should be used for all proposals:

1. Summary (maximum one page): Include name of project, point of contact (Individual and Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address), and the amount of federal funding requested. Note whether it is continuation of an ongoing project, a previously EPA funded project or a new project (if previously funded by EPA, provide the number and status of the grant or cooperative agreement for the previous three year period).
2. Project description and Work Plan (maximum three pages): This section should include a work plan that is realistic and appropriate to achieving identified objectives within the proposed

budget. Include a brief background on the main issues, specific objectives, major activities, location of the project, and expected outcomes and deliverables. This section should also include a discussion of a communication plan for distributing the project results to interested parties, if applicable (see Section V for further discussion).

3. Performance measures. The work plan should include performance measures that demonstrate the progress or results of the project (see Section V for further discussion).
4. Budget (maximum one page). Submit a general budget proposed to support project activities. Include information on other funding sources, if any.

Please send a hard copy of the proposal and an electronic version (on disc or via email) to:

Tim Osag
FIFRA Technical Enforcement Program
U.S. EPA Region 8
999 18th St., Ste. 300
Denver, CO, 80202

All proposals must be postmarked by July 19, 2004. *Proposals postmarked after this date will be returned without a review.*

V. Proposal Review and Selection Criteria

EPA will award these WPS grants on a competitive basis. All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Attainment of goals: How well the proposed project furthers the goal of the WPS to reduce the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers. The importance of the project in relation to a particular commodity, group of commodities or geographic region. Is there a clearly defined need, such as high exposure potential because of labor demands or pesticides used, or documented illnesses or known compliance issues within the targeted area or commodity group.
2. Clearly stated objectives and activities: How well the proposal links the goals/objectives and activities. Includes activities that will lead to learning or adoption of new practices by the regulated community.
3. Participation of the regulated community: Access to the regulated community (growers, Farm Labor Contractors, commercial pesticide applicators, or other agricultural employers) will be critical to the successful project. Therefore, proposals should include expected partnerships and letters or other indication of support to assist reviewers in determining strength of partnership and extent of participation of regulated community.
4. Performance measures: Includes a clear explanation of how the effectiveness of the project

will be evaluated. Performance measures may be linked to improvements in WPS compliance, pesticide illness or injury/worker safety record, implementation of improved worker safety practices or other methods, and may include environmental monitoring, surveys or other measures. If scientific research is to be performed or data are to be generated or analyzed, a Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) will be required.

5. Special emphasis will be on projects that maximize resources for ‘on-the-ground’ activities over administrative costs.

The criteria above will have essentially equal weight. Final selection will be made by the Director, FIFRA Technical Enforcement Program, EPA Region 8. Applicants will be notified of decisions by early August, 2004.

VI. Award Administration

Proposals that are selected for funding will be requested to submit a formal application for Federal funding. Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding. Deadlines must be met and the work plan must be approved by the EPA Project Officer for funding to occur.

Regulations governing the award and administration of FIFRA Grants/Cooperative Agreements: 40 CFR part 30 (for institutions of higher learning, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 and 40 CFR part 35, subparts A and B (for States, local governments, and interstate agencies).

Reporting requirements: The selected grant recipients will be asked to complete a midyear progress report and a final report at the end of the grant period. Reports should describe project activities, status of the objectives and activities in the work plan, and a statement of expenses. Quarterly Financial Status Reports will also be required. The Financial Status Report must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds.

Disputes: Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 will apply.

Confidentiality: Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency Regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

Restrictions on use of federal funds: These funds can only be used for the purposes set forth in the grant agreement. Grant funds from this program cannot be used for matching funds for other federal grants or for lobbying purposes (See 40 CFR 30.27, “Allowable Costs”).

Disclaimer: EPA Reserves the right to reject all proposals and to not make any awards.

VII. Agency Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

Tim Osag

FIFRA Technical Enforcement Program, U.S. EPA, Region 8

Phone: (303) 312-6582; Toll-free: 1 800 227-8917; Fax: (303) 312- 6409

E-mail: osag.tim@epa.gov